

Marking October 7th - Public Diplomacy Suggested Activities

1. Films:

- [Taking Pulse Project](#) (33 videos of 2-3 minutes each)

A few weeks after the Israel-Hamas War broke out, Makor Foundation published an Open Call titled "2 Minutes | Taking Pulse" and invited filmmakers to submit short-shorts in documentary, experimental, narrative, or animation addressing the situation from their own personal perspective and inclination. It was, in fact, a creative, artistic, personal, and emotional pulse check, allowing an immediate response and expression to the disaster that befell the State of Israel, using image, sound, and voice.

POC: Makor Foundation Eveline@kerenmakor.org.il

- [Tattooed4Life](#) (30 minutes)

Tattoo artist Liraz Uliel is a survivor of the Nova festival massacre, where 364 civilians were murdered. To cope with the grief and loss, she is creating a fractal design that represents the lives of the victims, and inviting those affected by the tragedy to have fragments of the design tattooed on their skin. By engaging with the stories of others, she finds the courage to share her own and discovers the good along the way.

POC: Go2Films outreach@go2films.com, Maya Salzman +972-2-5831371

- [Voiceless Witness](#) (31 minutes)

Nikolay's home is falling apart before his eyes during an NOP renovation. The October events left destruction everywhere and the fighting in Gaza fills him with memories of his military past. In order to maintain his sanity, he adopts a rescue dog from Gaza. Together, they confront the harsh, incomprehensible reality.

POC: Go2Films outreach@go2films.com, Maya Salzman +972-2-5831371

- [Deep in the Fog](#) (30 minutes)

The borders of Israel are fraught with high tension. Since October 7th, uncertainty about the enemy's next move has left residents in a state of perpetual anxiety. The pressure leads to bizarre situations, with no clear end in sight. Stories oscillate between tangible borders and imagined ones, painting a picture of a society struggling to rise from the ashes.

POC: Dor Levy, Producer dorylevy@gmail.com, +972-52-3883089

- [Yearim](#) (23 minutes)

After the October 7 massacre, residents of Netiv HaAsara and Kibbutz Zikim were evacuated to the 'Ya'arim' Hotel in the Jerusalem hills, portraying a diverse

array of characters including evacuees and hotel staff. Amidst the uncertainty and questions about returning home, the film explores reconstructing the notion of “home” and coping with an unclear future.

POC: Yaki Ayalon, Director and Producer, yakiayalon@gmail.com +972-54-5665502

- [This Hallowed Ground](#) (32 minutes)

“This Hallowed Ground” presents a mosaic of brief encounters near the Gaza border in the days following October 7th, bearing witness to the search for a missing girl’s DNA, the bloodstained residence of 19 butchered Thai workers, piles of destroyed cars, and the courage of civilians who chose to remain and maintain the lifeline of eerie, deserted towns.

POC: Costanza Films info@costanza-films.com, +972-52-8386492 / +972-77-9167716

- [The Boy](#) (25 minutes)

Avinoam and Barak, father and son from a Kibbutz bordering the Gaza strip, are forced to deal with another round of rockets and combat, each in their own way. One night, Barak reaches a boiling point and Avinoam is forced to absorb the heat. The filmmaker, Yahav Winner, was murdered by Hamas terrorists on the October 7th massacre after attempting to stall them in order to allow Shaylee Atary, his wife, to escape with their newly born daughter Shaya.

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- [6:30](#) (65 minutes)

Capturing the immediate aftermath of the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel, 8 testimonies of survivors are interwoven with animations and simulations, vividly depicting the impact across eight critical locations.

An exceptional documentary capturing the harrowing events of the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel with profound sensitivity. It features firsthand accounts from survivors at seven different attack sites, each story vividly brought to life through the creative use of miniature models and animations.

The film is the result of a collaborative creative effort by 100 artists specializing in miniature design and animation. They joined forces with filmmakers to document the experiences of survivors and rescuers who were interviewed during the first week of the war. Often, these interviews serve as the first recorded accounts of the events. The use of miniatures and animation creates an artistic distance that allows viewers to watch the film without being exposed to distressing images, while also generating empathy, emotional impact, and a profound connection that leaves a lasting impression on the audience.

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- [#NOVA](#) (54 minutes)

Nova tribe, a community of over 10,000 psychedelic trance music enthusiasts, has in recent years, gathered together for an annual outdoor festival. This year's event, held on October 7th in southern Israel, close to the border with Gaza, ended in a devastating tragedy, with the cold-blooded massacre of over 300 partygoers and the abduction of a further 40.

During the days following the event, director Dan Pe'er, who was engaged in volunteer efforts to aid survivors, started receiving a multitude of video and audio clips from survived festival goers. #NOVA chronicles the harrowing atrocities minute by minute, merely through festival survivors camera footage, and terrorists body camera recordings. With no outside intervention, the raw documentary reveals the true, bone-chilling atrocities of October 7th.

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- [Screams Before Silence](#) (57 minutes)

Never-before-heard eyewitness accounts from released hostages, survivors, and first responders.

During the October 7 attacks on Israeli towns and at the Nova Music Festival, women and girls were raped, assaulted, and mutilated. Released hostages have revealed that Israeli captives in Gaza have also been sexually assaulted.

Despite the indisputable evidence, these atrocities have received little scrutiny from human rights groups and international organizations. Many leading figures in politics, academia, and media have attempted to minimize or even deny that they occurred. In [Screams Before Silence](#), a 60-minute, presenter-led documentary film, Sheryl Sandberg, former COO of Meta and founder of LeanIn.org, interviews multiple eyewitnesses, released hostages, first responders, medical and forensic experts, and survivors of the Hamas massacres.

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- [Supernova: Black Sunrise](#) (52 minutes)

October 7, 2023, began like any ordinary day for concertgoers at the Nova Music Festival, located in Re'im, Israel. There were over 3,500 attendees from different countries at that week's festivities, immersing themselves in days of bliss and endless dance parties. Out of nowhere, as the sun rose that early Shabbat morning, the world changed forever. What started out as missiles hitting Israel's Iron Dome turned into Hamas terrorists infiltrating the area, shooting everyone in sight. What started out as a dance party, a place of comfort and simha, transformed into a bloodbath.

POC: Israeli films israelifilms@gmail.com

- [Bunker of Death: Last Recordings](#) (60 minutes)

The horrific massacre of Supernova music festival attendees who came under attack in the roadside “bunker of death” outside of Kibbutz Re’im was captured in a three-hour phone recording, excerpts of which have been released in recent days.

Ayelet Arnin, 22, a news editor with Kan news who was murdered inside the shelter, instinctively started a recording of the experience as terrorists began their onslaught on the morning of October 7. The recording documents less than half of the seven-hour ordeal inside the shelter, ending a few hours before survivors were rescued.

In that recording and others, released in a one-hour episode of Kan’s documentary series “Zman Emet,” those who hid in the roadside shelter can be heard trying to defend themselves against the Hamas-led terrorists who had come to murder and kidnap them, while trying to comfort one another as the massacre of the festivalgoers unfolded.

In the episode, video clips initially showed the group of frightened revelers arriving at the bomb shelter, videoing the initial barrage of rockets. As more people arrived at the shelter, they began to receive more information on the dangerous developing situation. [English trailer](#)

POC: Arnon Gal, Chief Editor – "Zman Emet" +972-52-3112137

2. Short Videos:

- [Rays of Light](#)

A documentary podcast accompanied by sand art, capturing the female perspective of October 7th, 2023. [English videos](#)

POC: orot.podcast@gmail.com

3. Exhibitions:

- [Dress for Freedom](#) by Keren Goldstein Yehezkeli / Ziv Koren

These are original garments borrowed from the private closet of the [hostages](#). A few weeks ago, we started collecting the personal clothes of the hostages in order to shout loudly the urgency of promoting moves for their release.

The clothes are presented with a disc necklace with the name of each hostage, his/her age, and the place they were kidnapped from.

In our installation there are rescued hostages' clothes as well as clothes of living hostages, who are desperately waiting to return home!

This exhibition takes place thanks to a joint initiative of the hostages' family members, the curator, the photographer and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The clothes of the hostages will be displayed in a public space as well as at events before policy and decisions makers.

- [Look them in the Eye](#) by Benzi Brofman

Benzi Brofman is an international street artist. He has been painting the faces of those who were affected by the war in Israel. Just by chance, on October 6 he was invited to paint a nature party at 'Reim' music festival. Luckily, he decided to leave just couple of hours before the war began.

- [Wrapping Memory](#) by Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design

Wrapping Memory is an initiative by the Department of Visual Communication at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem. This project aims to capture and commemorate the beauty of the region of the Gaza Envelope as it was before the tragic morning on October 7th, and is dedicated to raising money for the people who were harmed that day.

4. Books:

- [Testimonies Without Boundaries](#) by Alon Penzel

On the morning of October 7th, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas launched a surprise attack against the State of Israel. This book contains exclusive, shocking and unimaginable testimonies of the horrors that were part of the brutal massacre, during which babies, toddlers, children, pregnant women and elderly were raped, tortured, burned, cut, slashed, strangled, shot and stabbed. In conversations, testimonies and rare documentations from the field, volunteers of the ZAKA organization, the head of the Institute of Forensic Medicine and survivors of the Nova festival reveal for the first time the greatest national disaster in the history of the State of Israel in all its various aspects, while providing a historical commemoration for the great loss, and on the other hand – to the heroism of the people of Israel.

Alon Penzel (23) is an Israeli spokesperson, author, journalist, social activist and TV anchor. He served in the military as the spokesperson for the foreign press, in the Unit for Coordination of Government Activities in the territories (COGAT), and nowadays, he represents the State of Israel in the international arena at global-worldwide conferences, events, and lectures. In his youth, Alon participated in "Model UN" and even won the prestigious "Ramon Award" for excellence and leadership after publishing his first book at the age of sixteen. As a specialist in international relations and diplomacy, Alon completed a negotiation course on behalf of Harvard University in the United States and is currently studying political science at the University of Haifa.

- [Shelter: October 7th and after](#) by the Israeli Institute for Hebrew Literature

The Israeli Institute for Hebrew Literature has published a bilingual (Hebrew/English) anthology edited by Oded Wolkstein and Maayan Eitan, that includes short fiction by Israeli and international writers, in response to the events of October 7th. The texts written for the anthology are initial yet sophisticated literary attempts to grapple with a reality that threatens the very possibility of representation, conceptualization, and discourse. They vary from each other in perspective and style, but together they offer readers a literary kit for intellectual and emotional survival and a community with which to witness

the pain and suffering – and to search for the right words. The English version of the book is available online [here](#).

5. Music:

- **[Heroes](#) by Gilad Segev**

Since the tragic events which occurred on October 7th, known as "Black Saturday", a series of heroic narratives has unfolded, revealing stories of courage and resilience, with each article and post shedding light on extraordinary acts.

Touched by the endless tales of courage and moving events, Segev began crafting poetic tributes, honoring the brave heroes who chose to save the lives of others at all costs. The poems were shared across various platforms and generated widespread attention, so the next natural step for me was to bring them to life and create a musical album. The album, a testament to these heroes' spirit, is now in the making in collaboration with producer Gilad Shmueli.

- **[Hope dies Last](#) by Yossi Zabari and Avigail Arnheim**

This multi-modality performance tells the stories of survivors of the October 7th massacre through monologues, poetry, and spoken word. The performance is led by two performers, Yossi Zabari and Avigail Arnheim, together with the Meitar Ensemble, featuring music specially written by composer Ofer Pinchas and with Amit Dolberg as the artistic director of this project.

Avigail Arnheim and Amit Dolberg, along with Yossi Zabari will meet with the survivors of the massacre. Through objects and photos, they will help the survivors' articulate memories of that event. The resulting text will be edited into a monologue or poem, not only as a testimony but also as an artistic expression of their souls.

The meetings with the survivors are conducted with their consent and with the required sensitivity and caution.

The meetings and stories will be filmed (with the survivors' consent), and the resulting segments will be edited into a video shown as part of the performance.

All texts and the video will be translated into English (and other languages as needed) to ensure that the message crosses linguistic barriers and reaches an audience from all over the world, including those less connected, less familiar, or, unfortunately, less supportive of Israel; an audience which could also be one that may not know the story of the October 7th massacre fully.

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